This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A composite material having an optical effect comprising at least one moulding which consists essentially of core/shell particles whose shell forms a matrix and whose core is essentially solid and has an essentially monodisperse size distribution, where a difference exists between the refractive indices of the core material and of the shell material, wherein the shell in the core/shell particles is connected to the core via an interlayer, and at least one further material which determines the mechanical properties of the composite.

## 2. (Cancelled)

- 3. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein at least one contrast material is included in the at least one moulding which essentially consists of core/shell particles, where the at least one contrast material is a pigment.
- 4. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the core/shell particles have a mean particle diameter of 5 nm to about 2000 nm.
- 5. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the difference between the refractive indices of the core material and shell material is at least 0.001.
- 6. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one moulding which essentially consists of core/shell particles is in the form of a layer.
  - 7. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein

2 MERCK-2956

the at least one further material which determines the mechanical properties of the composite essentially consists of polymers.

- 8. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, which is in the form of a laminate, and the at least one further material which determines the mechanical properties of the composite is processable at a temperature below 200°C.
- 9. (Previously Presented) A composite material according Claim 1, wherein the at least one further material which determines the mechanical properties of the composite essentially consists of rubber polymers.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composite material having an optical effect according to claim 1, comprising connecting the at least one moulding to the at least one further material which determines the mechanical properties of the composite.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composite material according to Claim 10, wherein the connecting is achieved by the action of mechanical force and/or heating.
- 12. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composite material according Claim 10, wherein the connecting is achieved by uniaxial pressing.
- 13. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composite material according to Claim 10, wherein the connecting is achieved by casting-in or back moulding.
- 14. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composite material according to Claim 10, wherein the connecting is further processed by thermoforming or deep drawing.
  - 15. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a composite material

3 MERCK-2956

according to Claim 10, wherein the connecting is achieved by coextrusion.

- 16. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 3, wherein the pigment is an absorption pigment.
- 17. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 3, wherein the pigment is a black pigment.
- 18. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the core/shell particles have a mean particle diameter of about 5 to 20 nm or about 50 to 500 nm.
- 19. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the difference between the refractive indices of the core material and shell material is at least 0.01.
- 20. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the difference between the refractive indices of the core material and shell material is at least 0.1.
- 21. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one further material which determines the mechanical properties of the composite essentially consists of thermoplastic polymers.
- 22. (New) A composite material according to Claim 1, wherein the shell material is filmable.
- 23. (New) A process for preparing a composite material according to Claim 10, wherein the shell material is filmable.